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2099
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JUN
GHOST RIDER
2099 A.D.
INJECTED
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MURDERED BY AGENTS OF THE **D/MONIX** CORPORATION, DATA PIRATE KENSHIRO "ZERO" COCHRANE'S DIGITIZED CONSCIOUSNESS WAS RECOVERED BY ARTIFICIAL ENTITIES EXISTING IN THE HIDDEN AREA OF THE WORLD'S COMPUTER NETWORK KNOWN AS THE **GHOSTWORKS**. NOW, DOWNLOADED INTO THE CARBON-STEEL BODY OF AN UNSTOPPABLE WARBOT, ZERO ONCE AGAIN RIDES THE ROUGH STREETS OF TRANSVERSE CITY – AS THE GHOSTWORKS ENTITIES' REAL-WORLD AVATAR OF JUSTICE! STAN LEE PRESENTS... **GHOST RIDER 2099!**

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

LEN KAMINSKI WORDS · GRAHAM HIGGINS PICTURES · RICHARD STARKINGS AND COMICRAFT LETTERING · CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORS · JOEY CAVALIERI EDITOR · BOBBIE CHASE EDITOR IN CHIEF

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For The HaCsA 2002 Halloween Flood

LISTEN UP!
CENTRAL SECURITY SYSTEMS MAY HAVE LET YOU WASTE THEIR TIME, BUT THOSE DAYS ARE OVER.
SHIELD WILL NOT TOLERATE ANYTHING LESS THAN FULL COOPERATION ON DEMAND.
DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AS THE SMARTMOUTHED 'BOT.
WE WANT THE GHOST RIDER --
-- AND WE WANT HIM NOW.
RAT SCUM CANCER SHOCK.
SOMEBODY'S BEEN TALKING.
HADTA HAPPEN. SHIELD'S BEEN COMIN' DOWN HARD.

NIX INTERCOM -- PROB'LY GOT THE WHOLE PLACE UNDER AUDIO SURVEIL.
E-MAIL INSTEAD.
CHAK KLAT KLIKKLAT CHUK
Z-MAN:
HEAT ON FULL, TOPSIDE. GOT YOUR NAME ON IT. FADE THROUGH THE BACK EXIT; I'LL PEAL.
AJ
SEND
BIP
WE KNOW HE'S HERE.
WE HAVE VERIFIED INTELLIGENCE REPORTS PLACING HIM --
CAN'T BE TOO INTELLIGENT, THEN --
-- 'CUZ WE AIN'T GOT HIM.
I KICKED HIS CHROME-PLATED BUTT OUTTA HERE. HIS KINDA TROUBLE, I DON'T NEED.
WELL, THEN. YOU WON'T MIND IF WE CARRY OUT OUR ORDERS, AND SEARCH EVERY INCH OF THIS SUCKHOLE.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS STAND BACK --
-- AND HOPE WE DON'T FIND HIM.
MARK MY WORDS, MAN, THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING...

IT'S THE END -- ITS ALL OVER..!
HALF THE STAFF FIRED... STOCK PRICES PLUMMETING... MAN, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO US?!
MERELY AN OVERDUE RIGHTSIZING. CENTRAL SECURITY SYSTEMS' PAYROLL IS BLOATED BY NEPOTISM.
ITS HIERARCHY CONSISTS OF EGOCENTRIC DIVISION HEADS WITHOUT ANY ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THEIR FAILURES.
ANY PUBLIC CREDIBILITY IT ONCE HAD IS LONG SINCE SQUANDERED.
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
I'LL GO TO THE STOCK-HOLDERS!
I'LL --
WHAT YOU WILL DO...
...IS PRECISELY...
...NOTHING!
CHIKT
THAK
AS OF EIGHT O'CLOCK THIS MORNING --
-- YOU WERE DISEMPLOYED.
THAT ALONE, HOWEVER, IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO ATONE FOR THE MOCKERY YOU HAVE MADE OF THIS FIRM.
RESTITUTION MUST BE MADE.
YOUR PERSONAL ASSETS, PROPERTIES AND POSSESSIONS ARE HEREBY FORFEITED TO CSS AS PARTIAL REMUNERATION.
SO YOU SEE, STERLING, THE ONLY POWER YOU RETAIN --

-- IS THE ABILITY TO BORE ME.
OFFICERS, THIS MAN IS WITHOUT CREDIT, HOUSING, OR EMPLOYMENT.
ARREST HIM FOR VAGRANCY.
OH... NO...
NOW, CODA. AS I WAS SAYING BEFORE WE WERE INTERRUPTED --
AHUHHH AHUHH
-- WHILE YOUR CONTRACT WITH CSS IS VOID, I'M PREPARED TO OFFER YOU A FULL COMMISSION WITH SHIELD.
'FRAID SHIELD'S NOT MY KINDA OP.
LIKE TO DO THINGS M'OWN WAY.
'PRECIATE THE OFFER, THOUGH.
I'LL SURELY KEEP THAT IN MIND.
Ah, MISTER ADAMS. DO COME IN...
VERY WELL.
BUT REMEMBER, THERE WILL BE VERY LITTLE LATITUDE FOR FREELANCERS IN THE NEW ORDER...

CYBERSPACE.
MAN, THAT'S THE UBERHACK OF THE DECADE.
TOOK THREE DAYS AND A TON OF GIGS JUST TO RECONSTRUCT THE DATAFLOW, AND I STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW DOOM PULLED IT OFF.
DUNNO WHY ANYBODY FAST AND DENSE ENOUGH TO SURF THIS'D WASTE IT ON SCORING THE WHITE HOUSE --
-- BUT AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU CAN CRUNCH THESE KINDA NUMBERS, YOU CAN LIVE ANYWHERE YOU WANT.
BINK
YOU'VE GOT MAIL!
JAMMIT. I TOLD ANESTHESIA NOT TO BUG ME...

Whaat? You mean we have to do this again this month? How we continue to—Oh. Hel-lo. Didn't see you there. Nice shirt. Welcome to the 2099 Bullpen Bulletins Page. We return despite a cruel worlds best efforts to the contrary. Yeah, well, what doesn't kill us makes us stronger, so here we go.

First Order of Business: For a number of reasons, none of which we're all that crazy about, Matt Morra won't be editing titles in the 2099 line for the foreseeable future...and we hope that that's a turn of events that will reverse itself in time to come. Matt'll still be around, doing a lot of advising and consulting...(like reminding Joey how to spell "Dethstryk"). Till you're back here for good, Matt, remember, this is only the end of Act 2...

Second Order of Business: You wanna know how Spidey 2099 Project X is going, do ya? Boy, there's no getting anything past you. All right, how about this? Suppose we told you that not only is Rick Leonardi busy drawing it, but our pet name for the project around here is Spider-Man Meets Spider-Man...What would you think of that? Now remember...it's just our secret!

Third Order of Business: Is Punisher 2099 A.D., Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. the absolute longest title you'll see on a comic book this year or what? Our especial thanks to Todd Klein, who suffered through its design and revision. The first issue with that logo invited you to join the new organization founded by Doom... and if you did, you discovered a lot of new cast members, as well as the return of some requested oldies! This month, the title develops further...and we'd hate to do it without you! Our book has always been a slightly skewed version of vigilante characters...so even if ya don't go for that sorta thing, give this book a try!

2099 BITMAPPED

Fourth Order of Business: Speaking of mail we love it! We pore through all of it! We roam and skulk the bulletin boards looking for e-mail, too! Most of what we've done in the past has been based on your comments...and we plan ahead using your suggestions and criticisms! So if you're considering writing (or posting), do it! We're listening!

More Of Marvel 2099 A.D.

Spider-Man 2099 A.D. #32: Spidey got his costume during the "Day of the Dead" festival in Mexico...and now it's that time of year again, a time to revisit a heritage!

Hulk 2099 A.D. #7: Draco's a big enough thorn in Greenskin's side! It's not enough that the villainous genius wants control of Lotusland...Doom wants it, too!

Ravage 2099 A.D. #31: Ravage, Hela, Ferra and Ursell are close to having Hellrock all sewn up...now if they could just talk Dethstryk and the Seeress off the property! Did we say "talk"? Yeah, right!

X-Men 2099 A.D. #21: Halloween Jack and Meanstreak apparently can't get enough of Vegas, and Krystalin larns what Doom has in mind for the X-Men's territory!

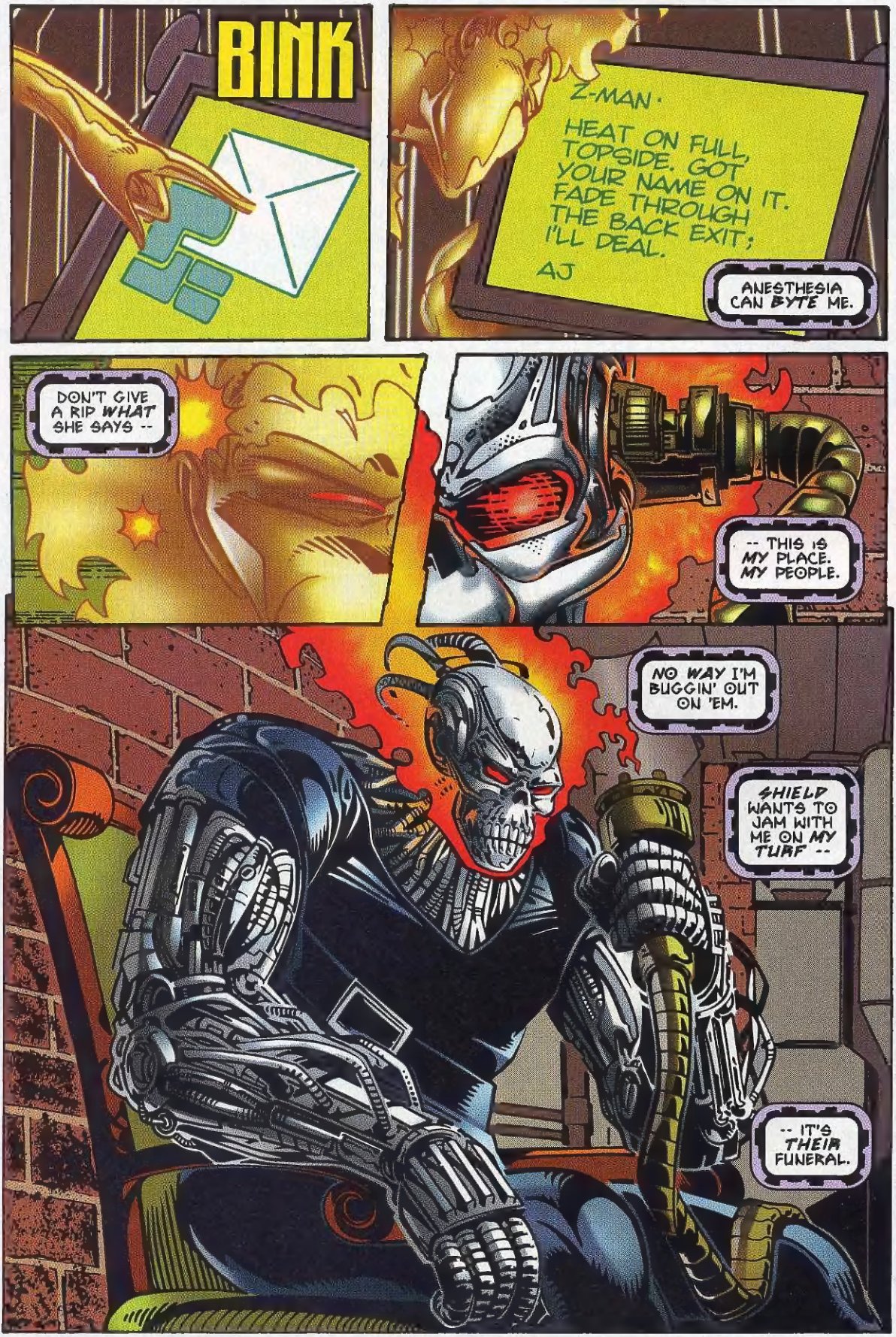
Ghost Rider 2099 A.D. #14: It's called "Under New Management," and truer words were never spoken! GR wakes to find Doom in charge of everything...including him!

Punisher 2099 A.D. #29 Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.#29: Jake trains a cadre of new agents...not all of whom have his best interests at heart. Plus the return of Jigsaw!

PROJECT X

Sixth Order of Business: Yeah, so the Hildebrandts couldn't convince Joey to go visit them. (Apparently, Joey figured he was gonna fall down one of the Mines of Moria or something...) Realizing they were up against a power greater than Gollum, they came to down and dropped off the rough pencil layouts for their X-Men 2099 Bookshelf Edition entitled "Oasis." Wanna see? Ya can't. All right, maybe if you ask politely...

Fifth Order of Business: Doom's still in charge, you'll notice. How 'bout those covers by Pat Broderick? How 'bout those stories by Warren Ellis, whose concepts and cool dialogue have doubled the mail on his issues? How 'bout that new cast of characters...and our creative team's twist on the old ones? How 'bout you pick it up to see what everybody's raving 'bout!


BINK
Z-MAN.
HEAT ON FULL, TOPSIDE. GOT YOUR NAME ON IT. FADE THROUGH THE BACK EXIT; I'LL DEAL.
AJ
ANESTHESIA CAN BYTE ME.
DON'T GIVE A RIP WHAT SHE SAYS --
-- THIS IS MY PLACE. MY PEOPLE.
NO WAY I'M BUGGIN' OUT ON 'EM.
SHIELD WANTS TO JAM WITH ME ON MY TURF --
-- IT'S THEIR FUNERAL.

I'LL BE FRANK, MISTER ADAMS -- I'VE SEEN YOUR WORK, AND I FIND IT... REFRESHING.
YOU BRING A PASSION AND CONVICTION TO IT WHICH IS SADLY LACKING IN YOUR PROFESSION IN THIS CENTURY.
Ah, THANK YOU... MISTER PRESIDENT.
I REQUIRE SOMEONE WITH YOUR PARTICULAR TALENTS.
ALSO, I SUSPECT YOU MAY HAVE A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE ASSIGNMENT I HAVE IN MIND.
YOU ARE NO DOUBT FAMILIAR WITH D'MONIX'S ILL-ADVISED PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE GHOST RIDER.
IT WAS YOUR OWN FOOTAGE OF HIM, AS I RECALL, WHICH THEY EMPLOYED.
Uh, YEAH.
I... WASN'T TOO HAPPY ABOUT THAT...

NOR AM I.
I WISH TO SEE D/MONIX'S MEDIA VIRUS NEUTRALIZED, MISTER ADAMS --
-- AND I WANT YOU TO OVERSEE THE PROJECT PERSONALLY.
YOU... WANT ME... TO PRODUCE PRO-GHOST RIDER PROPAGANDA?
WHY?!
IT SUITS MY NEEDS.
THE DETAILS BEYOND THAT ARE NOT YOUR CONCERN.
GOOD DAY, MISTER WILLIS.
YOU MAY BEGIN WORK IMMEDIATELY.
SON OF A GLITCH...

WHAT'S DOWNSTAIRS?
STORAGE.
GOT A NICE CASE OF POLYDICHLORIC EUPHEMOL I CAN GIVE YOU A GOOD PRICE ON...
ZAT SO?
LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT IT.
STAFF ONLY
LOCKED.
GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO BREAK IT --
STAFF ONL
-HUNNGHK-
STAFF ONL
KSKRAANCH

SKBLAM
YOU LOOKIN' FOR ME, PUSSBAGS? YOU GOT ME!
AHHGGK
YOU BITHEAD!
THIS SCRAP IS PRECISELY WHAT I WANTED TO AVOID! IT'S NOT LIKE I'M INSURED FOR THIS.
TAKE IT OUTSIDE!
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH.
SKBLAM
SKBLAM
SKBLAM
WHATEVER.
UK
NNGH
OW!

YOU WANNA RIP? C'MON!
LAST DIDN'T HAVE WHAT IT TOOK TO TAKE ME DOWN --
-- AND NEITHER DO YOU!
THINK SO?
TAKE YOURSELF A GOOD LOOK AROUND --

-- AND THINK AGAIN.
AH, SPEW.

YOU'RE NOT DEALING WITH CSS ANY-MORE.
THIS ENDS WITH YOU EITHER IN CUSTODY --
-- OR IN PIECES.
MAYBE YOU CAN TAKE ME, MAYBE YOU CAN'T.
YOU WANNA FIND OUT --
BAR CODE!
-- IT'S GONNA COST YOU.

WAY I SEE IT, YOU'RE NOT *WORTH* IT.
UP TO *ME*, I'D JUST *NUKE* YOU FROM ORBIT AND BE *DONE* WITH IT -- BUT YOU GOT AN *APPOINTMENT* WITH THE *PRESIDENT* --
-- AND IT'S *MY* JOB TO SEE YOU *KEEP* IT.
THE PRESIDENT? *DOOM*?!
WHY THE SHOCK DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT TO *BEGIN* WITH?!
ANYBODY WHO CAN PULL OFF THE HACK *HE* DID IS SOMEBODY I WANNA *MEET*.
WHAT'RE WE *WAITING* FOR?
LET'S *MOTOR*.
YOU NEVER *DID* HAVE ANY SENSE, COCHRANE.
IT SAYS "*DOOM*" ON IT, IT'S GOT TO BE *BAD* [illegible].

-- VERY BAD BUSINESS, I SAY.
THIS GHOST RIDER IS A DANGEROUS PUBLIC MENACE.
AN ANTISOCIAL CRIMINAL CAPABLE OF DEFEATING A SMALL ARMY.
AND PEOPLE ARE AFRAID OF HIM.
WHAT YOU'RE SUGGESTING WILL CAUSE MASS PANIC.
I AM WELL AWARE OF THE GHOST RIDER'S CAPABILITIES AND PUBLIC STATUS.
I CONSIDER THEM ASSETS.
DON'T YOU AGREE, MISTER KELLERMAN?
Ah... YES...
COMPLETELY, MISTER PRESIDENT.

HE POSSESSES THE TWO INDESPENSABLE PREREQUISITES FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION --
-- POWER, AND THE FEAR OF THE MASSES.
HE IS THE IDEAL CHOICE.
FURTHERMORE, YOU FORGET I HAVE NOT ASKED FOR YOUR OPINIONS.
THIS DECISION HAS ALREADY [redacted] MADE BY EXECUTIVE ORDER.
AND THIS CONVERSATION --
-- IS TERMINATED.
BIP
THAT WHITE HOUSE HACK WAS NICE BIZ.
WHAT'S UP?

WHAT IS UP IS THE TIME OF THE OLD REGIME IN THIS CITY.
CORRUPTION AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS HAS FESTERED ■ TRANSVERSE CITY FOR DECADES.
THIS INDUSTRIAL REGION IS FAR TOO VITAL TO MY NATIONAL RENEWAL PROGRAM TO ALLOW THAT CONDITION TO CONTINUE.
I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT SHIELD ALONE WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO RECTIFY THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS.
THE IMPOSITION OF ORDER DOES NOT NECESSARILY ENSURE THE ERADICATION OF SOCIAL DECAY.
I REQUIRE AN INDEPENDENT OPERATOR EMPOWERED TO INTERPRET THE LAW ON A SITUATIONAL BASIS.
YOU WILL BE THAT AGENT.
I'M APPOINTING YOU THIS REGION'S FEDERAL MARSHAL.

ME?! THE LAW?!
NOT A SHOCKIN' CHANCE, MAN...
ENABLE ACCESS ABRAXAS DELTA. IMMOBILIZE ALL SYSTEMS.
LET ME CLARIFY MATTERS FOR YOU.
I HAVE REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH YOUR GHOSTWORKS MASTERS.
THEY HAVE DECIDED THAT EXPEDITING MY PLANS WILL FURTHER THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THEIR OWN GOALS.
CHOICE ON YOUR PART IS NOT AN OPTION.
THEY HAVE PROVIDED ME WITH KEYWORDS WHICH ENABLE CERTAIN BLOCKS OF HIDDEN CODE IN YOUR OPERATING SYSTEM.
CONSIDER YOURSELF FORTUNATE.
WITHOUT THAT CONTROL FACTOR, YOU WOULD BE FAR TOO DANGEROUS TO MY AGENDA.
AND THAT, NATURALLY, WOULD NECESSITATE YOUR DESTRUCTION.

OF COURSE, YOU WILL NOT REMEMBER THIS CONVERSATION.
MAIN MEMORY COMMAND: DELETE PERCEP FILES FOR PREVIOUS NINETY-FIVE SECONDS.
DECISION-TREE COMMAND: RESET STATE-VECTOR COLLAPSE REFERENT TO COMPLIANCE REFUSAL.
REVERSE AND RESUME STANDARD OPERATION.
ME?! THE LAW?!
AFTER ALL THE YEARS OF BEIN' HASSLED BY THE BLACKBOOTS...
...MAN... THAT'D BE A TRIP...
YEAH, ALL RIGHT. I'M SOLD.
I'LL DO IT.
YES.
I KNEW YOU WOULD...

YOUR MANDATE IS AS FOLLOWS: BRING JUSTICE TO TRANSVERSE CITY BY WHATEVER MEANS YOU SEE FIT.
YOUR COMMISSION WILL ALLOW YOU ACCESS TO SHIELD RESOURCES, WHILE PLACING YOU OUTSIDE THEIR AUTHORITY.
YOU ARE ANSWERABLE ONLY TO MY MINISTER OF PUNISHMENT, JAKE GALLOWS, AND MYSELF.
BEYOND THAT, YOUR ONLY RULES --
MARSHAL
-- ARE YOUR OWN.
Hmm.
I WOULD, HOWEVER, SUGGEST --
-- A LESS CASUAL UNIFORM.
LEMME JUST ADJUST MY SOLIDIGRAM IMAGE PARAMETERS...
YOU GOT IT, MAN.

THERE.
JAGGED --
-- OR WHAT?
THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE

MACHINE LANGUAGE

Joey Cavalieri
Editor

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Off With His Head

Recognize this voice?
Good. 'cause you're going to be hearing it from now on.

Dear Machine Language,

I love GHOST RIDER 2099. The art is perfect, the stories are exciting and I believe it to be the most promising of the 2099 titles. I'd love to see Ghost Rider and Hulk 2099 get into a real battle and stay enemies. I'd also like to see this Ghost Rider team up with another 2099 character, perhaps one of the X-Men and fight against a cool 2099 enemy.

It'd also be great to see each of the 2099 characters meet up with their current day counterparts. Any chance of that happening?

Narayan Choppala
N.W. Washington, D.C.

A lot of folks have written us about 2099 and present day characters crossing over, there is already a Spidey/Spidey in the works, by Peter David, Rick Leonardi and Al Williamson, no less! What do the rest of you think of the idea? Any particular team-ups you'd like to see?

Dear Editors,

The addition of Ghost Rider to the 2099 line gave me mixed feelings, to say the least. The first issue was pretty interesting, and consequent issues got much better.

I enjoy the connection of Ghost Rider with computers, and his heavy reliance on technology. Still, I find that books in "cyberspace" leave me a little cold. I would definitely like to see this book take a supernatural twist. Particularly now that GR is rebuilding himself.

The darker approach to this book is intriguing, and Transverse City seems completely separate from the rest of the 2099 Universe. Perhaps this is done on purpose, but I would like to see a little bit more continuity.

You have a really interesting premise here, I hope to see it continue.

Joey Marchese
Union, NJ

More continuity? Now that Ghost Rider is Doom's Transverse City marshal, I think you'll find that the 2099 Universe continuity that you wish for is definitely here.

Dear Machine Language,

GHOST RIDER 2099 is excellent. I've been reading Ghost Rider since I was a kid. Blaze and Ketch are cool too, especially when they deal with their supernatural demons. But this Ghost Rider definitely puts the icing on the cake. It's nice to see that this Ghost Rider isn't a supernatural being (considering Zero Man is dead). I like the idea that a rogue Cybernet computer pulls in the living energy of a subconscious mind into its network which makes a deal to bring order and vengeance in this particular dark time for Earth. I love the artwork, and all the different artists who have tried their hand at the art. It's a combination of Blade Runner and the Batman movies. Nice touch, and keep up the good work.

Christopher Gallagher
Waltham, MA

This book sorta goes out of its way to downplay the supernatural aspects of the character, Chris. Thanks for noticing. Glad you enjoy the book.

Dear GR folks,

This Ghost Rider is totally awesome! I must admit, when I first saw that GR was being launched into the future, I anticipated a cheesy version of the current Ghost Rider. But despite my prediction, GHOST RIDER 2099 has consistently kept up its quality and excitement for a year now.

Congratulations to all who have made this book worthwhile and better than its predecessor.

LCPL Joshua Lawhorn
U.S. Marine Corp.

No "cheesy version of the current Ghost Rider," huh, Josh? So that debut of CHEESE RIDER can be put off? Too bad...we kinda liked his skull with the fiery halo of melted cheddar!

Dear Ghost Rider 2099,

Ever since the release of the first 2099 title, that being SPIDER-MAN 2099 in 1992, I've been waiting for my favorite comic to make his move into the future.

I must say, I was a little disappointed at first with the fact that he's not a demonically possessed, poor young sop out for vengeance. As the issues went on, I found myself enjoying this Ghost Rider and finding that I spent less on other titles so I could continue to buy GHOST RIDER 2099.

1. When will there be a Blaze or Vengeance 2099?
2. Will GR 2099 develop any new weapons?
3. Where are the Ghost Rider 2099 villains (such as Blackout, Zodiac and Scarecrow, etc)?

Bob Silson
Ontario, Canada

1.GR 2099 is a loner, Bob, so there are no plans for Blaze. 2. As Transverse City Marshal, GR is more powerful then ever. 3.There aren't any plans for any present day villains, but there will be plenty of new and exciting GR villains like next month's Heartbreaker in the works.

Dear Machine Language,

I've really enjoyed the last few issues of GHOST RIDER 2099. It seems the character has achieved a little bit more humanity, and perhaps that's because the supporting characters around him are more developed, giving the Ghost Rider a deeper sense of being. I enjoy the Cyberpunk aspects of this book. It definitely has a futuristic feel, with both the art and dialogue being just different enough to keep the sense of disbelief going

Jaime Kricena
Austin, TX

Expect us to explore that supporting cast more deeply in the future, Jaime.

Next Issue

Yeah, yeah, marshal of Transverse City, easy gig, right? Give out a bunch of speeding tickets (that is, tickets for not speeding), steal a couple apples from the corner fruit stand, beat up a buncha bad guys, right? Well, what if the first bad guy is a real bad female named Heartbreaker? And what if she was even deadlier than our hero? Well, you'll get to see this next month, as well as Dr. Zero, Kylie and the rest of the Bar Code (where everybody knows your e-mail address) bunch. Also, we welcome new artist Ashley Wood. You should show up for that alone. It's only polite.